

POSITION: Research Geneticist, GS-440-12**NUMBER OF VACANCIES:** 1 Full-time-time position**TYPE OF APPOINTMENT:** Temporary, NTE 1 year and 1 day, may be extended or terminated sooner based on workload, staffing or funding)**SALARY RANGE:** \$58,189 to \$75,646 per annum**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** 40028A**NOTE 1:** Applicants without prior federal service will be appointed at step one of the grade.**NOTE 2:** This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.**NOTE 3:** Appointment to positions at this facility requires completion of a background investigation. Candidates selected must complete the investigation request, and will be fingerprinted prior to appointment.**NOTE 4:** A pre-employment physical examination may be required for an applicant not currently employed by the VA Medical Center who is tentatively selected.**NOTE 5:** A drug test may be required for any applicant tentatively selected from outside the VA Medical Center.***NOTE 6:** This is a Non-Bargaining Unit position.**LOCATION:** This position is located in the Research Service, Portland OR Division; however, it may be necessary to utilize the selected person's services at a different Medical Center location if conditions require it in the future.**TOUR OF DUTY:** Position is dayshift, M-F. The work conditions may require a change in the tour of duty.**AREA OF CONSIDERATION:** Any US Citizen.**Displaced/Surplus Federal Employees:** Employees covered under the provision of the inter-agency Career Transition Plan (ICTAP) and Career Transition assistance Plan (CTAP) (displaced VA Employees) eligibles will be given priority consideration for vacancies within the **local commuting area** for which they are well qualified. Applicants requesting this consideration must attach appropriate proof of the ICTAP eligibility with their application.

DUTIES: The complete description may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Division. The following duties and responsibilities are taken from the position description and are considered to be a brief extract. The incumbent is a Research Geneticist who has the primary responsibility of providing technical and administrative support the Behavioral Neuroscience research group. Duties include provision of consultative and technical support to the basic research program investigating the neurogenetic basis for alcohol and drug sensitivity in mice. Provides expertise and training in a wide variety of mouse behaviors, including assessment of multiple behaviors in the domains of physiological dependence and withdrawal, ataxia, anxiety, consumption, thermoregulation, and locomotion. The incumbent will also develop new behavioral assays. Oversees development and maintenance of multiple specialized genetic animal models (including selected lines and congenic strains), provide quantitative genetic expertise (including gene mapping of complex behavioral traits), and oversee genotyping of selected animals using PCR amplification of extracted DNA and quantitative gel electrophoresis. The incumbent will manage a Core Dependence Induction Facility for rendering mice of a wide variety of genotypes dependent on alcohol, assay blood, brain and vapor ethanol concentrations by gas chromatography, and provide experimental design expertise to principal investigators of other laboratories. Evaluates and interprets results to determine their validity and scientific meaning, extend the work to new hypotheses, concepts and techniques. The incumbent will serve as co-investigator on grants, overseeing projects and collaborations, experimental design, data analysis, and presentation of data at scientific meetings, and preparation of manuscripts for publications in peer-reviewed journals. The incumbent will schedule and supervise the activities of multiple personnel; coordinate research activities in the various laboratory settings of the Research Assistants and Senior Research Assistants, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students working for the principal investigator; and coordinate research projects with other VA Scientists and OHSU faculty members and their students, fellows, and research personnel the incumbent will also research, analyze/design, and assist with negotiation of space and other needs in support of grant functions and interact on the principal investigator's behalf with research administrative personnel, university and VA administration. Because of the number of persons directly supervised (typically 608) and the magnitude of the operation for which executive functions are supported (more than 6 research grants with budgets totaling more than \$3 million), several years of experience are required for the position. The incumbent is ultimately responsible to the principal investigator of the grants, and must be able to function in his/her frequent absence with a minimum of direct supervision.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**Eligibility:** U.S. Office of Personnel Management Qualification Standards for GS-440 series applies and may be reviewed in the Human Resources Management Division office. Regulatory requirements such as "time-in-grade" and "time after competitive appointment" are applicable.**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:****Basic Requirements:** Degree (Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience or a related discipline) genetics; or one of the basic biological sciences that included at least 9 semester hours in genetics. **NOTE: Copies of transcripts are required to be submitted with application packet.****IN ADDITION TO THE BASIC EDUCATION REQUIREMENT APPLICANT NEEDS TO HAVE:****Specialized Experience:** One year of experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the occupation in the organization.**Rating Factors:** On a separate sheet of paper, provide a written, detailed response to each of the **RATING FACTORS**. **Failure to respond to rating factors will result in applicant not being referred for the position:** 1. Experience using multiple different genetic animal models to assess genetic relationships among traits. 2. Experience performing gene mapping experiments in mouse models. 3. Experience with behavioral effects of CHS depressant drugs in mice and how to develop assays of those behaviors. 4. Experience with various aspects of research grant development and administration.**WELL-QUALIFIED (CTAP/ICTAP):** A well-qualified candidate is defined as one who meets the qualification and eligibility requirements for the position, including all educational/experience and selective factors (when applicable), and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry.**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, politics, marital status, non-disqualifying physical or mental handicap, age or membership or non-membership in a labor organization.**HOW TO APPLY:** You may submit OF 612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment), a resume, or other written format (i.e., SF-171). If your resume or application does not provide all the information requested on the OF 612 and this vacancy announcement, you may lose consideration for the position. In addition, the following forms must be completed/provided and returned to Human Resources Management Service by the closing date:

- OF-306, "Declaration for Federal Employment"
- On a separate sheet of paper, provide a written, detailed response to each of the **RATING FACTORS** listed in the paragraph above.
- SF 50, "Notification of Personnel Action" (for proof of civilian Federal status). (if applicable)
- DD-214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" (if claiming veterans preference and/or VRA eligibility).
- SF-15, "Application for 10-point Veteran Preference" (with required documentation for proof). (if applicable)
- Appropriate proof of ICTAP eligibility. (if applicable)

HOW TO OBTAIN FORMS:**Forms are available online at www.portland.med.va.gov/hr****In Portland:**

VA Medical Center, Human Resources Management Division
3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road, (Bldg. 16, Room 300)
Portland, OR 97239. Phone # (503) 273-5236

If Mailing:

VA Medical Center,
Human Resources Management Division (P4HRMS)
P.O. Box 1034
Portland, OR 97207

Human Resources Management Division will not photocopy any application material; applicants are responsible for making photocopies prior to submitting applications. Applications must be received in Human Resources Management Division in the Portland office as listed above, no later than 4:30 p.m. on the closing date of the vacancy announcement. Applications will not be returned to applicants. For additional information you may contact a Personnel Clerk at 273-5236.